institutional delivery and post-natal checks and immunization to children.

- Operationalising 2000 Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health Services.
- Making 50% Primary Health Centers functional for providing 24-hours delivery services, over the next five years.
- Ensuring quality of services by implementing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities.

Direct Monitoring System for Spurious Medicines

604. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of Government in curbeing the manufacture of spurious medicines and drugs at manufacturing level and at the level of pharmaceutical distributors;

(b) whether Government would enact any law for directly creating and monitoring vigilance system throughout India to curb the ever growing menace of spurious medicines and drugs worth several thousands of crores of rupees without being controlled by States;

(c) if so, the details of the proposed law; and

(d) if not, the measures Government would propose for its direct involvement to curb this ever growing menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a)to(d) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder, it is the responsibility of State Governments through their respective Drug Control organizations to regulate manufacture and sale of drugs as well as to keep a surveillance over possible movement of spurious/counterfeit drugs.

Manufacture and sale of spurious/counterfeit drugs is primarily a clandestine activity. To this extent, it is difficult to detect the manufacture of movement of spurious drugs.

Trading in counterfeit products including drugs is reported world over. However, keeping in view the serious implicaitons of spurious drugs on public health as well as the loss to genuine industry, the Govt, has taken various measures to combat this menace.

(i) Detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Govts, to undertake focused surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs.

(ii) A Capacity Building Project through World Bank assistance has. been taken up to provide substantial assistance to State Govts, to upgrade drug testing facilities and to establish new drug testing laboratories.

It is expected to increase the number of samples tested in the country from about 36,000 samples to 1,00,000 samples per year and to reduce the reporting time to less than a month as against the present period from 3 to 6 months.

(iii) Specific training programme for regulatory officials of State Govts, on logistics of intelligence work, prosecutions etc. has been conducted with the assistance of FDA, Maharashtra. This is an ongoing activity.

(iv) In order to ensure efficient information exchange between drug regulatory officers in the country, in respect of licensing, sampling, prosecution, etc., a countrywide computer networking project has been undertaken by the Central Govt. This will enable the Central Govt, to regularly monitor the enforcement activities and recommend corrective measures.

(v) Pharma industry and trade has been motivated to fight menace of spurious drugs as a shared responsibility. No of cases could be successfully detected through the initiative taken by Pharma industry involving hiring of retired intelligence officers.

(vi) The recommendation of Mashelkar Committee which was constituted by the Government in 2003, to examine all aspects relating to the drug regulatory system in the country including the problem of spurious/sub standard drugs, are being followed for necessary change in legislation as well as improvement of enforcement activities.

(vii) Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2005 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha in May, 2005 to amend the said Act to provide for stricter penalities to the offenders including a maximum penalty of life imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 100,000/-. It further proposes to make the offence non-bailable, cognizable and to provide for specially designated courts for speedy trial of the cases.

The proposed amendments will make the law deterrent to the offenders involved in the manufacture or sale of spurious drugs. The involvement of enforcing agencies like Police will help in speedy investigation to book the culprits and in controlling anti-social elements in such activities.

Mashelkar Committee on Spurious Drugs

605. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of R.A. Mashelkar report on spurious medicines and drugs;

(b) whether Government would set up special courts in every State to ensure speedy prosecution of spurious medicines and drugs manufacturers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and alternative steps proposed to be taken;

(e) whether Government would ensure more drug inspectors especially for collecting samples for testing and in setting up more modern drug testing laboratories, to detect spurious drugs for speedy prosecution and conviction; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Following are the recommendations of Mashelkar Committee on Spurious drugs.

- Strengthening of the Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO) and giving it the status of Central Drugs Administration (CDA).